

Report to Chevy Chase Village Board
Environment and Energy Committee
April 16, 2011

I. Committee Mission and Structure

- Committee's Mission Statement was approved at last year's Annual Meeting:

Mission Statement

The Chevy Chase Village Environment and Energy Committee was established to promote a healthier environment for all Village residents and reduce the overall carbon footprint of the Village. Towards this end, the Committee develops and sponsors voluntary programs to encourage conservation and enhancement of the Village's natural resources and promotes environmental friendly policies and practices. The Committee will:

- ✓ Inform Village residents of best practices in environment and energy
- ✓ Use the Village Hall to showcase good practices in environmental management and energy conservation
- ✓ Work with the other Village Committees to incorporate sound environmental and energy practices where appropriate.

- Committee Co-Chairs and Membership

Marilyn Bracken and Marea Hatziolos Grant, Co-Chairs

Larry Heilman is our liaison to the Board.

Valery Amiel, Mary Candon, Oliver Davidson, Susie Eig, Amanda Jacobs, Jay Treadwell, Jonathan Lyons, Christopher Knopes, Betsy Stephens, Ralph Stephens, Craig Van Note, and Alice Kinter

2. Modus Operandi

- ✓ Develop an annual work plan with priority themes and objectives in support of our mission statement
- ✓ Educate residents about issues that are important to the environmental health of the community, including ways to lower our overall environmental footprint
- ✓ Work with other committees as appropriate, e.g., Tree Committee, Public Works, Open Space, Buildings and Facilities.
- ✓ Welcome new members who are interested in working toward these agreed objectives

3. Main Outputs this year:

- ✓ Introduced the tree benefits calculator as a decision support tool for use by Tree Committee and the Board in determining what environmental services are lost when a tree is taken down and what the proposed replacement tree(s) will provide if they reach maturity

- ✓ A major contribution of the E&E Committee this year was to present a well-articulated and science based argument to the Chevy Chase Club against their proposed use of the pesticide Methyl Bromide –a neurotoxin and ozone depleting substance whose use has been phased out by the EPA--to re-condition the Club's golf course greens. Along with representatives from adjacent towns to the Chevy Chase Club, the Village's delegation was able to dissuade the Club from using Methyl Bromide. As a result, an ad hoc working group of representatives of Environment Committees from neighboring towns has been formed to discuss common issues (e.g., dealing with PEPCO and street lighting), share information on best practice, and potentially to co-sponsor events like e-waste recycling drives, lectures, household surveys and maintaining green cover on the Connecticut Avenue median strip.
- ✓ Routinely include articles in the Crier with useful information for residents on a range of topics, from updates on global CO2 emissions and ways to lower our carbon footprint, to safe ways to dispose of hazardous waste, increase the efficiency of our recycling efforts in the Village, and how to compost organic waste to further reduce our impact on landfills and improve the health of our soil and green cover.

4. Proposed new initiatives

- ✓ Work with the Tree Committee in their Inventory of Trees in the public right of way and collaborate with them on expanding the inventory of Trees in the Village beyond what is in the public right of way to residential property, to give us a more comprehensive assessment of the quality and extent of our urban forest and how to enhance it.
- ✓ Household energy use surveys to supplement an earlier energy audit of the Village Hall completed in 2009 to help us get a baseline of Green House Gas Emissions in the Village. With information from the audits, household residents can see where the greatest opportunities lie to lower emissions, what options there are to improve, and through better practices in household energy and fuel consumption, begin to bring down our collective carbon footprint. Without the baseline and periodic monitoring, it will be impossible to determine whether we are making progress in reducing our overall carbon footprint or contributing to accelerating climate change through the cumulative impact of cities on atmospheric CO2 levels.
- ✓ Providing guidance to the Board on how to reduce storm water runoff and contamination of surface water with nutrients and other pollutants, largely as a result of the expansion of non-permeable surfaces in the Village. Major sources are installation of asphalt driveways and other hard surfaces associated with home remodeling. The E&E Committee would advise on how these issues are being addressed in neighboring towns.

Respectfully submitted: April 16, 2012, by Marea Hatzios Grant and Marilyn Bracken